

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 30 and 31 (from page 30, line 22, to page 31, line 17) of Applicants' specification, and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

-- The incident light waveguide (single mode, core portion) 7, and the two output light waveguides (single mode, core portions) 8 and 9 each had a width w_1 of $6.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, the multi-mode optical waveguide had a width w_2 of $15\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and a length L of $220\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and a distance d between the output light waveguides (single mode, core portions) at the exit of the multi-mode optical waveguide was $3.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. ~~Although not shown, the~~ The incident light waveguide (core portion) 7 had a curve portion with a radius r of curvature as 15 mm , as shown in Fig. 10. The intensity distribution of light entering into the multi-mode optical waveguide from the incident light waveguide at the connecting surface 10 of the incident light waveguide and the multi-mode optical waveguide was of a shape asymmetric with respect to the geometrical central axis of the incident light waveguide. The offset x between the geometrical central axis a of the incident light waveguide (core portion) 7 and the geometrical central axis b of the multi-mode optical waveguide was $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. A branching ratio between the quantities of light having a wavelength of $1.55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ outgoing to the two output light waveguides (core portions) 8 and 9 was measured. As a result, the branching ratio of light was $0.99 : 1$. --